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The third in a series of seminars on the Chinese economy was held on 2 August with representatives from policy offices and INR, Department of State, representatives from ORR, OCI, and ONE, [REDACTED]. The seminar was chaired by [REDACTED] ONE. The topic of the seminar was the agricultural outlook in Communist China. The discussants from outside CIA were:

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David Dean
Leonard Bacon
Edwin F. Jones

Mainland China Branch, Department of State
Mainland China Branch, Department of State
INR, Department of State

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1. The Influence of Geographic Factors over the Long Run

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[REDACTED] ORR, discussed briefly the effects of geographic patterns on the long-run prospects for agricultural development in China. Using recent GRC overflight photography, Mr. [REDACTED] illustrated types of soil and past uses of land that influence agricultural fertility.

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2. The Outlook for the 1963 Harvest

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[REDACTED] ORR, indicated that the early harvest of 1963 is likely to be lower than the poor early harvest of 1962. Mr. [REDACTED] discussed the factors that imply a very poor early rice crop and a wheat crop that will be little if any higher than in 1962. The size of the autumn harvest, accounting for about three-fourths of annual grain production in China, cannot be predicted this early, but prospects at present are not good. Reservoirs in South China are empty or have low water levels, and excess moisture has delayed planting in Central China.

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3. Chinese Agriculture as Viewed from Hong Kong

Mr. Brice Meeker, recently returned from his assignment as Agricultural Attache, Hong Kong, presented his views of the current and future prospects for agriculture in China. He concurred in the assessment of the early harvest as given previously by [REDACTED]. Mr. Meeker believes there is likely to be an increase in the output of miscellaneous grains (kaoliang, maize, millet) in China this year. The intermediate and late rice crops are dependent on moisture received over the next few months. Mr. Meeker believes that the total harvest for the year might be about the same or only slightly higher than last year.

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Group 1
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